

ARIZONA

Grain Research and Promotion Council

News Release

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Arizona Grain Council Member Elected to U.S. Wheat Associates

(Phoenix) -- Michael Edgar, general manager of Barkley Seed, Inc., Yuma and a member of the Arizona Grain Research and Promotion Council (AGRPC), was elected secretary-treasurer of U.S. Wheat Associates, Inc. (USWA) during the group's board meeting on February 4 in San Antonio, Texas. Edgar's term will commence in July 2006 and will likely lead to eventual service as chairman of USWA during 2008-2009.

Edgar has participated in all phases of the southwestern grain industry during a 27- year career that began in the Imperial Valley of California before joining Barkley Seed in 1988. Barkley Seed produces and sells certified seed of durum wheat, hard red wheat, barley and safflower in Arizona and the Imperial and Central Valleys of California. The company also is a major producer of identity preserved Desert Durum(R) wheat in both states through grower contracting, selling the crop to both domestic and export markets.

USWA, headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a non-profit association of 18 state wheat commissions, including the AGRPC.

It leverages producer funds with USDA Foreign Agricultural Service funds to conduct wheat export market development and servicing programs out of two U.S. and 15 foreign offices. It assists in maintaining export sales of U.S. - grown wheat that total about \$3.5 billion at the farm level. USWA has been instrumental in the origination and growth of markets for Desert Durum(R), the premium quality durum wheat produced in the low deserts of Arizona and Southern California.

The AGRPC was created by legislative statute in 1985 to engage in programs and activities for enhancing the profitability of grain production in Arizona. Such programs and activities may include: developing and expanding markets; reducing the cost of marketing grain and grain products; supporting research to develop new grain varieties, improve production, handling, harvesting and water utilization; and, providing education and publicity to facilitate the Arizona grain industry. The council consists of nine grain producer members appointed by the governor of Arizona. Operational funds are collected from wheat and barley producers at the point of first sale.



US Wheat Associates chairman-elect Leonard Schock of Montana (right) congratulates Michael Edgar following Edgar's election as secretary-treasurer of the organization.

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